

Ace Herd Vision

Throughout this year the Board have been discussing the implementation of a Vision for the Ace Herd, similar to the Ayrshire Vision, but specific to the herd. In June the Ace Herd Vision was adopted and released at the Annual Conference.

In 1999, the Association implemented the Ayrshire Open Nucleus Herd. In its initial form, the herd was farmed by three members as part of their herds in South Auckland, Taranaki and Canterbury. With the objective of hastening the rate of genetic improvement within the Ayrshire breed, the Nucleus Herd animals were selected from members herds and either purchased or leased.

In 2001, the three groups of animals came together to form the basis for the Ace Herd, a sharemilking venture in Taranaki, milking a total of 230 cows. This initial herd was made up of 80 nucleus herd animals, 70 purchased animals, 50 leased and 30 supplied by the farm owner. The herd was given the prefix ACEAYR, and in its first season of operation set a new farm best production record, which was then broken again in two subsequent seasons.

In 2008 the Ace farm moved from Taranaki to a new sharemilking position near Clinton, South Otago. The herd size was increased to 450, through the purchase of a line of 90 Ayrshires and the assistance of members with a further 155 cows. Many members took the opportunity to sell a cow to the Association for \$1000 (at a time of record high cow values) in return for receiving free registrations on all female stock born from 2008 onwards.

Ayrshire New Zealand is the only Breed Society in the world to have successfully operated a sharemilking venture. Set up with the express purpose of increasing the rate of genetic gain for the Ayrshire breed, a total of 33 bull calves from this herd have been selected for inclusion into Ayrshire Progeny Test Teams, with 6 of

these successfully having been marketed as proven bulls to date. It is also interesting to note that almost all cows in the herd registered with the Aceayr prefix at status S2A or higher are daughters and granddaughters of the original nucleus herd cows.

Limited use of progeny test bulls takes place, with the bulk of semen used being from proven high genetic bulls. Last season the 20 highest BW yearling heifers were also mated to AB sires to assist the rate of genetic gain.

All animals in the herd (almost 700 including replacements) are now owned by Ayrshire New Zealand, which has added significantly to the assets of the Association. We are now in a position to have surplus stock available for sale to help reduce the Association's debt.

Most importantly, the Ace Herd Vision recognises that the goal of the Association is to purchase a 450 - 500 cow farm at some point in the future to provide a long-term stable base for the herd.

Ace Herd Update

Calving is about to start again. The new sharemilkers are well settled in now, Wilson & Trish Millar. They have been very busy tidying up around the farm. New concrete has been laid at the exit and entrance races, this will make a huge difference to lame cows in the coming season. There has been a new backing gate installed.

With the winter nearly over, grazing the cows at home has proven to be a good decision. The result - a big saving to the Association. Apart from a few young cows, the remainder have wintered well. The in-calf heifers are looking very well, the bulls that ran with them look like they have done a good job as a lot are springing up well.

Ace Herd VISION

- Continued breed improvement through the breeding of young sires and also helping prove young sires of the future with continued use of higher ranked proven bulls
- Continued asset improvement to the Association
- Initial member support
- Annual income from Ace herd expected to at least cover the reduction of income from registrations
- Sale of surplus animals to help reduce the Association's debt

Key Performance Indicators

- (a) Nucleus Herd will be in the top 3% of NZ Ayrshire herds.
- (b) The venture will generate income to fund the registration goal.
- (c) The venture will provide financial security for the Association by maintaining an appreciating asset.

Ultimate Goal

The Association to own a 450 – 500 cow farm.

Ace Herd Statistics

Herd Averages to 13/05/2011

	Cows	Litres	Fat	%	Prot	%	M/S	Days	Cell	BW	PW	LW
Whole Herd	437	4155	194	4.66	163	3.91	356	251	194	11/47	42/71	48
Pedigree Ayrshires	388	4237	198	4.68	166	3.92	365	256	196	16/48	47/71	58

Top Five 2 Year Olds

Name	BW	PW	LW	Sire
Aceayr Sanrosa Rema, C6-6	84	177	293	Southwind Joh Joe ET
Aceayr Tessa, C6-6	78	170	286	Sanrosa Jock ET
Aceayr Brie S3A, B7-6	62	140	259	Sanrosa Royal Phillip
Aceayr Lyrica, B6-7	69	152	257	Pa Hill Julli Nigel ET
Aceayr Daffodil, C6-6	48	116	215	Kiterosa Jono

Top Five 3 Year Olds

Name	BW	PW	LW	Sire
Aceayr Joachim Connie	87	248	464	Southwind Joachim
Aceayr Chal Doll S2A	66	172	266	Kilfennan Challenge
Sanrosa Okoki 07-225	59	174	255	Sanrosa Bema
Aceayr Jouko Rose	55	168	248	Southwind Jouko
Glenkylie 07-4 S2A	65	159	237	Southwind Barnabas ET

Top Five 4 Year Olds

Name	BW	PW	LW	Sire
Aceayr Challenge Eva, C	52	196	327	Kilfennan Challenge
Aceayr Jaavi Belle, C	18	178	319	Ahtolan Jaavi
Aceayr Oma China, B	100	195	280	Asmo Omatunto
Aceayr Joh Alice, B	58	155	263	Southwind Joh Joe ET
Aceayr Blade Mist, C	64	132	256	Semayr Pahill Blade

Top Five 5 Years & Over

Name	Age	BW	PW	LW	Sire
Semayr Belbrae Pat, Exc	8	135	191	278	Sanrosa Royal Phillip
Aceayr Lyric S3A	5	39	149	276	Glenmarie Etroni Levi
Kiri Vale C Kio	6	57	123	268	Kilfennan Challenge
Aceayr Merv Jane, C	5	50	131	260	Semayr Kilbarchan Merv
Aceayr Chal Adventure, VHC	6	87	173	248	Kilfennan Challenge

Other Highlights

Name	Age	BW	PW	LW	Sire
ARC Aceayr Olivia, VHC	8	183	388	467	Sanrosa Royal Phillip
Aceayr Royal Claire S1A, VHC	8	72	216	432	Sanrosa Royal Phillip
Aceayr Lulu S1A, B6-7	2	143	253	411	Pekatahi Luke
Aceayr Blue Jo S1A	6	20	251	401	Kiteroa Bonny Blue Joe ET
Ingleside Chal Five S1A	5	107	241	393	Kilfennan Challenge

Top Members Animals

Name	Age	BW	PW	LW	Sire
Ingleside Chal Five S1A	5	107	241	393	Kilfennan Challenge
Glenkylie LA Lily S1A	9	8	14	304	Lodore Achievement
Kiri Vale C Kio	6	57	123	268	Kilfennan Challenge
Miro 03-131 S1A	7	12	99	262	Miro Kaponga
Skyline Limerick Deus S1A, VHC	5	3	85	256	Sanrosa Irish Limerick